



What is claimed is:

1. A device for storing a trailer hitch apparatus at a predetermined storage location, having a male trailer hitch mounting member positioned for mating with a female connector, wherein the female connector is mounted to a vehicle, the device comprising:

a mounting portion; and
a trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle, connected to the mounting portion.

2. A device as in claim 1 further comprising a block positioned for insertion through at least a portion of the receptacle and for engagement with the mounting member.

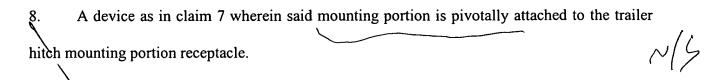
A device as in claim 2 further comprising a block positioned for insertion through all of the receptacle and for engagement with the mounting member.

4. A device as in claim 1 further comprising a friction member connected to the receptacle.

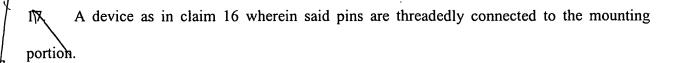
5. A device as in claim 1 further comprising threads positioned to engage the mounting member.

6. A device as in claim 1 wherein said mounting portion is fixed to the trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle.

7. A device as in claim 1 wherein said mounting portion is movably attached to the trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle.



- 9. A device as in claim 1 wherein said mounting portion comprises a substantially flat member.
- 10. A device as in claim 9 wherein said mounting portion further includes mounting holes therein.
- A device as in claim wherein said mounting portion further includes mounting cylinders connected thereto.
- 12. A device as in claim 11 wherein sand mounting cylinders comprise bolts.
- 13. A device as in claim 12 wherein said bolts are threadedly connected to the mounting portion.
- 14. A device as in claim 12 wherein said bolts are integrally connected to the mounting portion.
- 15. A device as in claim 14 wherein said bolts are welded to said mounting portion.
- 16. A device as in claim 11 wherein said mounting cylinders comprise pins.



- 18. A device as in claim 16 wherein said pins are integrally connected to the mounting portion.
- 19. A device as in claim 18 wherein said pins are welded to said mounting portion.
- 20. A device as in claim 18 wherein said pins are cast with said mounting portion.
- A method for storing a trailer hitch apparatus at a predetermined storage location, having a male trailer hitch mounting member positioned for mating with a vehicle receptacle mounted to a vehicle, the method comprising:

receiving the member into the receptacle, the receptacle being connected to the storage location, and

limiting reciprocation between the member and the receptacle.

- 22. A method as in claim 21, wherein said limiting comprises accepting a blocking member through at least a portion of the mounting member and through at least a portion of the receptacle.
- 23. A method as in claim 22 wherein said limiting further comprises accepting the blocking member through all of the mounting member.



- 24. A method as in claim 22 wherein said limiting further comprises accepting the blocking member through all of the receptacle.
- 25. A method as in claim 24 wherein said limiting further comprises accepting the blocking member through all of the mounting member.
- 26. A method as in claim 22 further comprising securing the blocking member in a blocking position.
- 27. A method as in claim 21 wherein said limiting comprises connecting the mounting member and the receptacle in a friction fit.
- 28. A method as in claim 21 wherein said limiting comprises connecting the mounting member and the receptacle in a threaded engagement.
- 29. A system for storing a trailer hitch apparatus at a predetermined storage location, having a male trailer hitch mounting member positioned for mating with a female connector, wherein the female connector is mounted to a vehicle, the system comprising:

a receptacle, connected to the storage location and arranged for receiving the mounting member; and

means for limiting reciprocation between the mounting member and the receptacle.

- A system as in claim 29 wherein said means for limiting comprises means for accepting a blocking member through at least a portion of the mounting member and through at least a portion of the receptacle.
- 31. A system as in claim 30 wherein said means for limiting further comprises means for accepting the blocking member through all of the mounting member.
- 32. A system as in claim 30 wherein said means for limiting further comprises means for accepting the blocking member through all of the receptacle.
- 33. A system as in claim 32 wherein said means for limiting further comprises means for accepting the blocking member through all of the mounting member.
- 34. A system as in claim 30 further comprising means for securing the blocking member in a blocking position.
- 35. A system as in claim 29 wherein said means for limiting comprises means for connecting the mounting member and the receptacle in a friction fit.
- 36. A system as in claim 29 wherein said means for limiting comprises means for connecting the mounting member and the receptacle in a threaded engagement.



37. A storage compartment for a vehicle having a receptacle for holding a trailer hitch mounting apparatus having a male trailer hitch mounting member, the storage compartment comprising:

a mounting portion connected to the storage compartment; and a trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle, connected to the mounting portion.

38. A storage compartment as in claim \$7 further comprising a block positioned for insertion through at least a portion of the receptacle and for engagement with the mounting member.

- 39. A storage compartment as in claim 38 further comprising a block positioned for insertion through all of the receptacle and for engagement with the mounting member.
- 40. A storage compartment as in claim 37 further comprising a friction member connected to the receptacle.
- 41. A storage compartment as in claim 37 further comprising threads positioned in the receptacle to engage the mounting member.
- 42. A storage compartment as in claim 37 wherein said mounting portion is fixed to the trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle.
- 43. A storage compartment as in claim 37 wherein said mounting portion is movably attached to the trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle.



- 44. A storage compartment as in claim 43 wherein said mounting portion is pivotally attached to the trailer hitch mounting portion receptacle.
- 45. A storage compartment as in claim 37 wherein said mounting portion comprises a substantially flat member.
- 6. A storage compartment as in claim 45 wherein said mounting portion further includes mounting holes therein.
- 47. A storage compartment as in claim 45 wherein said mounting portion further includes mounting cylinders connected thereto.
- 48. A storage compartment as in claim 47 wherein said mounting cylinders comprise bolts.
- 49. A storage compartment as in claim 48 wherein said bolts are threadedly connected to said mounting portion.
- 50. A storage compartment as in claim 48 wherein said bolts are integrally connected to said mounting portion.
- 51. A storage compartment as in claim 50 wherein said bolts are welded to said mounting portion.

- 52. A storage compartment as in claim 47 wherein said mounting cylinders comprise pins.
- 53. A storage compartment as in claim 52 wherein said pins are threadedly connected to said mounting portion.
- A storage compartment as in claim 52 wherein said pins are integrally connected to said mounting portion.
- 55. A storage compartment as in claim 54 wherein said pins are welded to said mounting portion.
- 56. A storage compartment as in claim 54 wherein said pins are cast with said mounting portion.
- 57. A storage compartment as in claim 37 wherein said mounting portion is integrally formed with a wall of the storage compartment.
- 58. A storage compartment as in claim 37 wherein said mounting portion is connected to a wall of the storage compartment.